

**Bible Study**  
**Matthew 17:1-9**

**Opening Question:**

Have you ever had a "mountain top" experience, such as a powerful experience at a worship service or retreat, so you never wanted to leave and go back to the "valley" of your life?

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think Jesus only invites Peter, James, and John?
  
2. Imagine you were there seeing this incredible event; how do you think you may have felt? What might you have said or done?
  
3. Why is the statement, *after six days*, important?
  
4. Who else appeared during Jesus' transfiguration?  
(a) Why is that significant to us today?
  
5. How did the disciples react when God spoke out of the cloud? (v6)  
(a) Why?  
(b) How does this affect your mindset of God's Holiness?
  
6. What does the voice of the Father say? Why?
  
7. Why would Peter want to make tents?
  
8. Why do you think that Jesus asked the disciples to tell no one about what they had seen until after he was raised from the dead?
  
9. How do you think the transfiguration affected the Disciples' faith and purpose?
  
10. What does the transfiguration mean to you?
  
11. We are told that one day we will be transfigured to be like Jesus, what does this mean and what should we be doing until that day?

**Thought points:**

- Transfigured literally means to be transformed
- Moses and Elijah appearing at the transfiguration represent the law and the prophets, also Moses represents those who die and go to glory, and Elijah represents those who are caught up to heaven without death.
- Peter equates Jesus with Moses and Elijah and is dramatically rebuked by the voice from the cloud.
- The conversation witnessed was about the work of the cross and presumably the resurrection to follow
- The transfiguration is often considered a fulfilment (or partial fulfilment) of Matthew 16:28
- Essentially this was not a *new* miracle, but the temporary cessation of an ongoing one. The real miracle was that Jesus, most of the time, could keep from displaying this glory. Yet John said, *We beheld His glory (John 1:14)*. Peter wrote, *We were eyewitnesses of His majesty (2 Peter 1:16)*.
- The transfiguration prefigures the kingdom reign of Jesus Christ
- The name of the mount of transfiguration is not known. Suggested sights are Mount Tabor, Mount Herman & Mount Miron

**Extra reading:**

Exodus 24:15-18, Exodus 34:4-9, Deuteronomy 18:15;19, 1 Kings 19:11-14, Malachi 3:1, Malachi 4:5-6, Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 12:26-27, Luke 9:30-31, Acts 3:22-23, Romans 10:17, 1 Corinthians 15:49, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 3:20-21, 2 Peter 1:12-18, 1 John 3:2-3,

**Personal Reflection:**

- What character in the story did you identify with?
- What did the story mean to you personally?
- What might you need to do or change as a result?

**Leaders Notes:**

- Pray to open & close the session seeking openness of heart and mind
- Ask opening questions
- Share the reading of the first passage verse by verse.
- Go through 'Thought Points'
- Read extra reading (particularly Deuteronomy, Matthew, Malachi, Mark, Romans & Philippians)
- Work through the questions. If you are stuck go back to the thought points.